



Greater Topeka Labor Pool

Douglas Jackson Jefferson Osage Pottawatomie Shawnee Wabaunsee

Topeka, Kansas

January 2003

*Our wide-open spaces come
with a workforce waiting
for wide-open
opportunities.*

Today in Greater Topeka people want to be a part of something new and dynamic. Topeka has the workforce today to build, create, assemble, sell and shape the businesses of tomorrow.

Greater Topeka is proud to have citizens with the legendary heartland work ethic. Topeka offers good people with strong values who understand the importance of business and community partnerships. Of course, we have to work. But what sets us apart is that Topekans want to work.

Kansas has one of the highest levels of educational attainment in the country. The state has been ranked eighth nationally in the percent of population with a four-year degree, and more than half of Kansas workers have taken the opportunity for special on-the-job training. If your company needs specific skills, we will provide them.

Topekans will fill your offices, your manufacturing facilities, your distribution centers, your sales staffs. We can work the machines, the computers, the phones, the factories and even the fields. We are ready today.

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce/GO Topeka, 120 SE 6th, Topeka, KS 66603
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DEMOGRAPHICS

Greater Topeka is growing. Over the last decade thousands of people have discovered Topeka and have moved to Shawnee and the surrounding counties.

What they find are great schools for their children today and expanding opportunities to help chart their tomorrows. They find a pleasant climate, short commutes, Midwestern hospitality, low cost of living, a variety of entertainment opportunities and a mix of cultures that blend into a diverse and vibrant community.

County Population

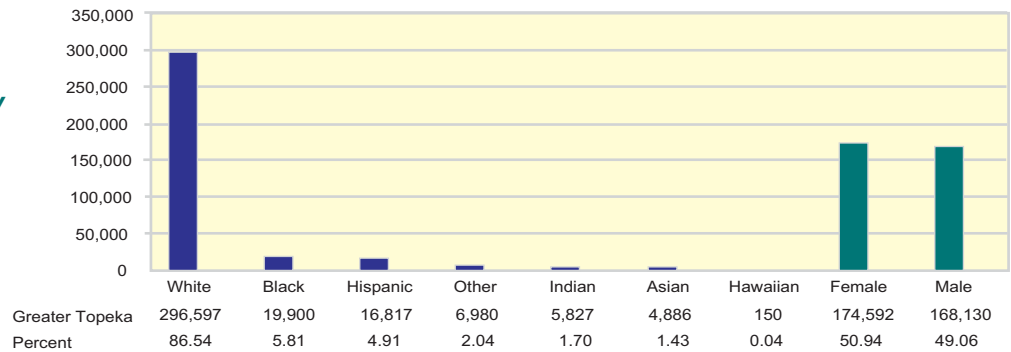
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2001.

County	Population			Change 1990 - 2001	
	2001 Estimate	2000 Census	1990 Census	Actual	Percent
Greater Topeka	343,519	342,722	308,183	35,336	11.5
Shawnee	170,080	169,871	160,976	9,104	5.7
Douglas	100,005	99,962	81,798	18,207	22.3
Jefferson	18,610	18,426	15,905	2,705	17.0
Pottawatomie	18,336	18,209	16,128	2,208	13.7
Osage	16,903	16,712	15,248	1,655	10.9
Jackson	12,742	12,657	11,525	1,217	10.6
Wabaunsee	6,843	6,885	6,603	240	3.6

Surrounding the Greater Topeka area are many smaller communities that provide small-town living with short drives to big-city opportunities in Topeka.

Regional Population by Ethnic Origin and Gender

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.



Ten Largest Cities

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

City (County)	Population
Topeka (Shawnee)	122,377
Lawrence (Douglas)	80,098
Eudora (Douglas)	4,307
Wamego (Pottawatomie)	4,246
Baldwin City (Douglas)	3,400
Holton (Jackson)	3,353
Osage City (Osage)	3,034
St. Marys (Pottawatomie)	2,198
Carbondale (Osage)	1,478
Silver Lake (Shawnee)	1,358

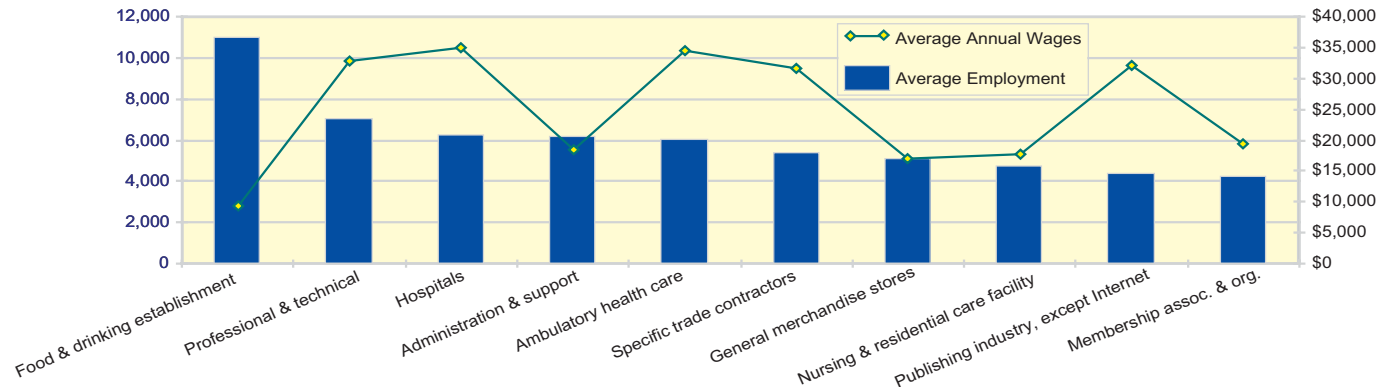
Topeka is the fourth largest city in Kansas and is in the center of the seven-county Greater Topeka area. With a population of 122,377 people, Topeka is the state capital and home to a beautiful downtown government complex. The Statehouse, the centerpiece of the city, is undergoing an eight-year renovation to restore it to its historic grandeur.

Lawrence, 22 miles east of Topeka and the sixth largest city in Kansas, is home to the University of Kansas and more than 80,000 people, many of them working in Shawnee County.

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Top Ten Industry Sub-sectors by Employment

Source: Labor Market Information Services, KS Department of Human Resources, 2001 annual averages



Industries in Topeka have a strong workforce ensuring that your business will continue to grow tomorrow.

Regional Employment and Wages

Source: Labor Market Information Services, KS Department of Human Resources, 2001 annual averages

Industry Sectors	Establishments	Employment	Average Wages
Total	9,325	169,197	\$28,133
Total Private	8,791	130,224	\$27,163
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	53	238	\$20,329
Mining	D	D	D
Utilities	D	D	D
Construction	1,151	8,961	\$32,704
Manufacturing	324	13,319	\$37,596
Wholesale Trade	455	4,068	\$38,097
Retail Trade	1,387	22,077	\$19,520
Transportation & Warehousing	260	2,418	\$26,806
Information	168	7,552	\$34,843
Finance & Insurance	601	7,020	\$40,192
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	369	2,361	\$20,845
Professional & Technical Services	894	7,015	\$32,879
Management of Companies & Enterprises	45	1,589	\$61,451
Administrative & Waste Services	450	6,418	\$18,730
Educational Services	78	1,191	\$23,495
Health Care & Social Assistance	734	20,954	\$26,984
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	106	2,699	\$14,378
Accommodation & Food Services	696	12,599	\$9,734
Other Services, except Public Administration	977	8,033	\$20,959
Total Government	534	38,974	\$31,373
Local Government	243	20,225	\$25,382
State Government	207	15,016	\$35,763
Federal Government	84	3,733	\$46,172

D = Unable to disclose data due to disclosure regulations.

Food and drinking establishments have the highest number of employees, with a workforce of approximately 11,000. The next highest number of employees is in the professional and technical industries, followed closely by hospitals, administration and ambulatory health-care. The Greater Topeka area continues to offer a healthy mixture of industries and retail businesses.

In the private sector, retail trade, healthcare, manufacturing, construction, accommodations and food services are thriving. Average annual wages in the Topeka area range from \$9,734 for workers in accommodation and food services to \$61,451 for managers of companies and enterprises.

As the capital of Kansas, Topeka has a large number of government workers. Government is a leading employer in the Greater Topeka area, with more than 20,000 people in local government, 15,016 in state government and 3,733 in federal government. The average salary for the nearly 40,000 government workers is \$31,373.

LABOR FORCE

Today, people in Greater Topeka are ready to work. Statistics gathered by government agencies show there is a pool of employees ready to accept their roles in new jobs. The Greater Topeka area has a dynamic and ever growing workforce able to serve the needs of all employers.

Civilian Labor Force

Source: Labor Market Information Services,
KS Department of Human Resources, 2001 annual average.

Civilian Labor Force	186,826
Employment.....	179,098
Unemployment.....	7,728
Unemployment Rate.....	4.1%

The Civilian Labor Force is “all civilians 16 years of age and over classified as employed or unemployed,” according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those classified as unemployed had made efforts to obtain employment in the past four weeks or were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off.

The Civilian Labor Force and unemployment rate is one measure of the health of an areas economy. The Civilian Labor Force in the Topeka area has 186,826 people. The unemployment rate in 2001 was 4.1 percent in the Greater Topeka area, which is less than both the Kansas and National figures. However, low unemployment does not necessarily translate into a shortage of labor.

Civilian Labor Force statistics provide valuable information, but they don't tell the entire story. The Effective Labor Force –

people who are fully employed, unemployed, discouraged workers and opportunity laborers – can also illustrate the employee picture. When those workers in the Effective Labor Force are added to the Civilian Labor Force, the number jumps by more than 10,000 people. Discouraged workers have become disillusioned in their job searches, but want to work. Opportunity workers – for example full-time students or homemakers – are not looking.

The Available Labor Pool is made up of people in the Civilian Labor Force who would take a job for a variety of reasons. Members in the Available Labor Pool are: retired or unemployed people looking for full-time employment; employed but looking for another job; and employed and not seeking another job, but would consider a change with the right circumstances.

Effective Labor Force

Estimates based on the 2001 available labor pool study done by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Fort Hays State University

Effective Labor Force	197,005
Civilian Labor Force.....	186,826
Non CLF Available.....	10,179

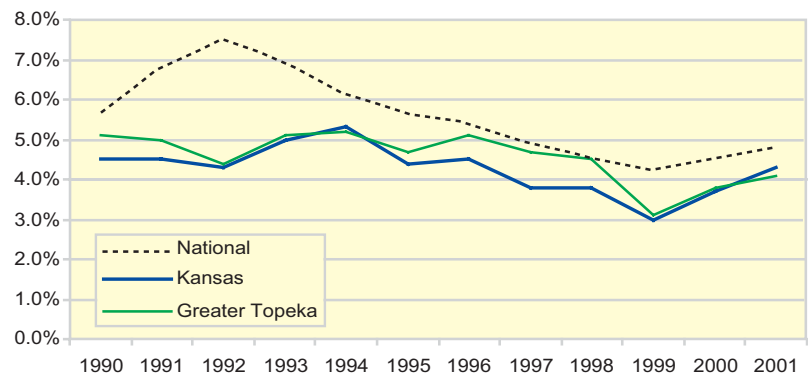
Available Labor Force

Estimates based on the 2001 available labor pool study done by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Fort Hays State University

Available Labor Pool	123,719
Employed - right opportunity.....	80,969
Employed - looking.....	21,079
Unemployed - looking.....	17,534
Part-time looking for full-time.....	4,137
Non - available	73,286
Employed - not looking.....	73,286

Unemployment Rate 1990 - 2001

Source: Labor Market Information Services, KS Department of Human Resources and The Bureau of Labor Statistics



The Available Labor Pool in Greater Topeka has 123,719 people, according to the Docking Institute. More than 100,000 of those workers are now employed and are looking or would consider changing jobs.

WHAT ARE WORKERS' PREFERENCES?

Labor Supply by Occupational Group

Estimates based on the 2001 available labor pool study done by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Fort Hays State University.

Occupational Group	Labor	Percent
Available Labor Pool	123,719	100.0
Admin. Support	49,735	40.2
Sales	40,332	32.6
Bench work	39,343	31.8
Agriculture	39,219	31.7
Services	36,621	29.6
Processing	35,755	28.9
Construction	33,157	26.8
Machine Trades	31,548	25.5

Note: Some people may be available for employment in more than one group, therefore, the sum of the groups will not equal the total of the available labor pool.

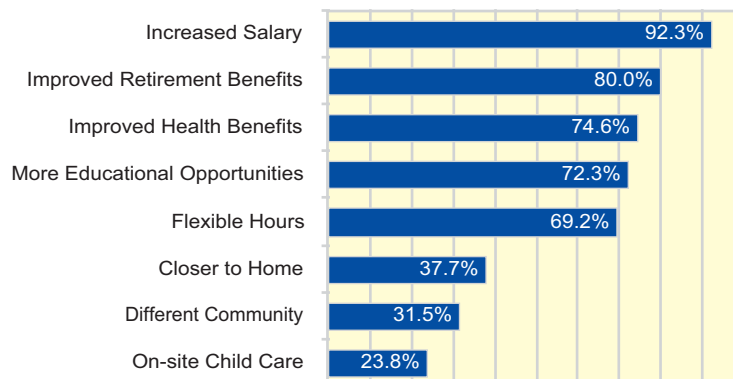
Today, the skills are in place to comfortably locate and place the Greater Topeka workforce in a wide variety of positions with diverse companies. Nearly 50,000 people – more than 40 percent of the Available Labor Pool – would consider working in administrative support. Another 40,000 would consider opportunities in sales. More than 30,000 people would consider a career change to bench work, agriculture, services, processing, construction or machine trades.

The survey found that more than 92 percent of workers in the Greater Topeka area might change jobs if they would earn more money. Increased salary is the most significant reason that workers consider a change in occupations, but it is not the only factor, according to the Docking Institute survey.

Other factors that are important in the Available Labor Pool are improved benefits, including those for retirement funds, healthcare, educational opportunities, flexible hours, proximity of work to home, moving to a different community and on-site day care.

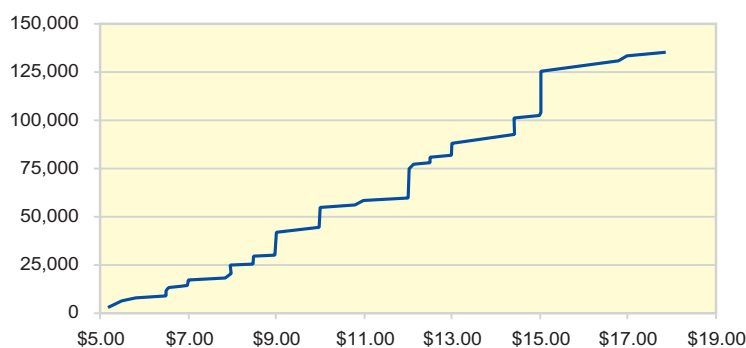
Important Benefits

Source: Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Fort Hays State University.



Wage Demands

Estimates based on the 2001 available labor pool study done by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Fort Hays State University.

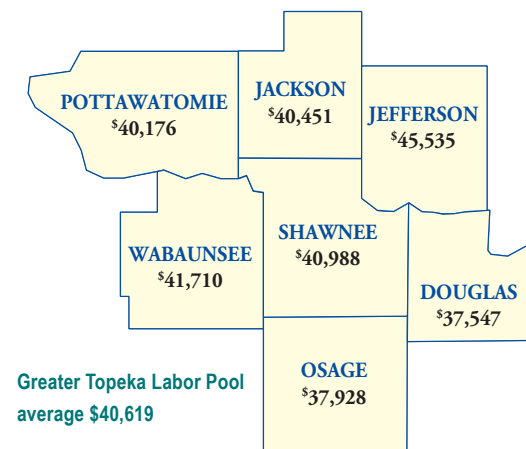


Wages make a significant difference in the Available Labor Pool. Wage demand is the amount of pay or salary required to satisfy a worker's salary expectation to change jobs or careers or for an unemployed worker to take a job. The Available Labor Pool increases along with wages. Fewer than 25,000 workers in Greater Topeka would consider a job change for wages of \$8 an hour. The available labor pool exceeds 50,000 at \$10 an hour.

Feeling good about the work you do and being fairly compensated for it, is the engine that drives a vibrant workforce.

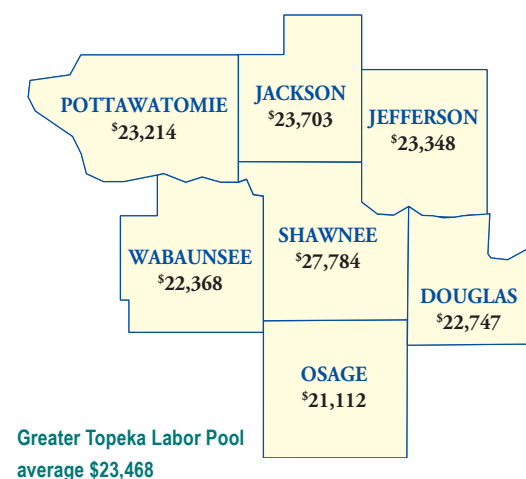
Median Household Income

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000



Per Capita Personal Income

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2000



In Shawnee County and its neighboring counties, the median household income compares very favorably to the rest of the country. Across the United States, the median household income was \$41,994, the United States Census Bureau reported in 2000.

In Shawnee County, 58 percent of households reported an annual income of \$35,000 or above, and 40 percent had incomes of \$50,000 or more. The median income for the county is \$40,988.

In 2000 Shawnee County had a per capita personal income of \$27,784, ranking them seventh in Kansas, and above the state average of \$27,374. The bureau also reported that Shawnee County's per capita income increased 5.2 percent from 1999 to 2000.

Shawnee County ranked third in Kansas in total personal income for 2000, according to the BEA. The total personal income for Shawnee County was more than \$4.7 million, up 4.9 percent from 1999.

Topeka has consistently ranked 7 percent below the average United States cost of living according to the ACCRA study conducted four times annually. With 100 being the average, the most recent study indicated Topeka ranked 94.4 in grocery items, 90.6 in housing, 93.5 in utilities, 94.2 in transportation, 92.2 in health care, and 95.2 in miscellaneous goods and services.

While Topeka is considered a "hot spot" for housing with housing values surging 18.25 percent during 2001, housing costs in Topeka remain below average. The average sale price for homes in neighborhoods typically purchased by corporate middle-management transferees is \$124,475, according to Coldwell Banker's 2002 Home Price Comparison Index.

The Topeka/Shawnee County area has the trained workforce available today. Their skills could be working for you tomorrow.

This publication is produced by coordinated efforts of The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce/GO Topeka and Labor Market Information Services.

Data supplied by: Labor Market Information Services, Kansas Department of Human Resources, 401 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66603 785-296-5058 <http://laborstats.hr.state.ks.us>